

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 06312 01 OF 02 181407Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 OPIC-03

AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /109 W

----- 074360

R 181354Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9494

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06312

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, SP, PO, EC

SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON PORTUGAL AND SPAIN

REF: (A) BONN 6043; (B) MADRID 2287; (C) BONN 5598;

(D) MADRID 2346; (E) MADRID 2345

SUMMARY: THE FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR,
VAN WELL, AND HIS DEPUTY FOR WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH
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PAGE 02 BONN 06312 01 OF 02 181407Z

AMERICA, RUHFUS, BRIEFED THE AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 16

CONCERNING FRG VIEWS AND ACTIONS RELATING TO PORTUGAL AND SPAIN, TO BOTH OF WHICH BONN ATTACHES GREAT AND INCREASING IMPORTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. VAN WELL SAID THAT THE FRG CABINET WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT ABOUT THE NEED TO DO MORE TO SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PORTUGAL. FOR ONE THING, THEY WOULD ENCOURAGE AS MANY VISITS AS POSSIBLE. FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES WAS ALREADY SCHEDULED TO COME TO THE FRG BEGINNING MAY 19 AND THE PORTUGUESE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS WOULD BE HERE ON MAY 8-9. VISITS BY THE PORTUGUESE MINISTERS FOR ECONOMICS AND INFORMATION HAD ALSO BEEN SUGGESTED. SO FAR AS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WAS CONCERNED, THE DM 70 MILLION (REFTEL A) WAS FULLY APPROVED AND AVAILABLE FOR USE AT ANY TIME. HOWEVER, WHILE THE CABINET HAD TAKEN THE NECESSARY DECISIONS, THE FRG DID NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS PROJECT DETAILS WITH THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION, LEST BONN BE ACCUSED OF INDIRECT INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGAL'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, THE GERMANS HAD CONCLUDED THAT PORTUGAL'S MOST PRESSING NEED WAS NOT FOR AN IMMEDIATE STAND BY CREDIT, SINCE ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES WERE STILL QUITE SUBSTANTIAL. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, AN URGENT NEED IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC PLANNING, AND THE FRG HOPED TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME ASSISTANCE THERE.

2. WITH REGARD TO PORTUGAL'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE EC, THE FRG HOPED THAT SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO FACILITATE PORTUGUESE EXPORTS, AND WAS URGING THIS NEED ON ITS PARTNERS. ONE AREA OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE WAS THE EXPORT OF PORT WINE, NOW SIGNIFICANTLY BLOCKED BY EC REGULATIONS PROHIBITING ADMIXTURES OF ALCOHOL WHICH HAD NOT DEVELOPED NATURALLY DURING THE PROCESS OF FERMENTATION.

3. ACCORDING TO VAN WELL, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER RETURNED FROM HIS RECENT VISIT TO MADRID MORE THAN EVER CONVINCED OF THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE WIDER CONTACTS BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE MEMBERS OF EC AND NATO. GENSCHER HAD RAISED THIS SUBJECT IN THE TALKS WITH HIS EC
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PAGE 03 BONN 06312 01 OF 02 181407Z

COLLEAGUES AT DUBLIN AND HAD ALSO DISCUSSED IT BILATERALLY WITH BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN. ONE THOUGHT, WHICH PERHAPS GOES BACK TO THE VIEWS EXPRESSED TO GENSCHER BY CORTINA, WAS THAT THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE US BASES AGREEMENT PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSER SPANISH TIES TO NATO, GIVEN THE

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PAGE 01 BONN 06312 02 OF 02 181408Z

46

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06312

DUAL FUNCTION OF THE BASES. CALLAGHAN EVIDENTLY SHOWED
SOME INTEREST BUT INDICATED THAT SOME WESTERN EUROPEAN
GOVERNMENTS WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH
THIS CONCEPT SO LONG AS FRANCO REMAINED IN POWER.

4. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND OBSERVED THAT THE SPANISH HAD
TRADITIONALLY USED THE PRESENCE OF OUR BASES FOR WHATEVER

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PAGE 02 BONN 06312 02 OF 02 181408Z

LEVERAGE THEY MIGHT PROVIDE IN FURTHERING THE CAUSE OF A CLOSER ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO. THIS MATTER MIGHT NOW ACQUIRE INCREASED IMPORTANCE IN LIGHT OF THE EVENTS IN PORTUGAL; NEVERTHELESS, THE AMBASSADOR DRAWING ON HIS OWN EXPERIENCE HAD TO ADMIT THAT THERE WERE SOME EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WHICH WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE TO TAKE A DIM VIEW OF IT. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT THE US-SPANISH JOINT COMMISSION'S PRECEDENT OF INVITING SPANISH OFFICERS TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS IN GERMANY MIGHT PROVIDE A MODEL FOR ENLARGED COOPERATION ALONG THESE LINES BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE FRG.

5. VAN WELL STRESSED THAT GENSCHER WAS AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF STARTING EARLY ENOUGH IN THE EFFORT TO TIE SPAIN MORE CLOSELY TO WESTERN EUROPE. SO LONG AS IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO FORMALIZE NEW RELATIONSHIPS, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DO AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ON A PRAGMATIC BASIS; THIS WOULD INCLUDE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VISITS. VAN WELL SAID THAT GENSCHER WAS DETERMINED TO PUSH THIS SUBJECT WHEREVER POSSIBLE AND THAT, IN DOING SO, HE HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

HILLENBRAND

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